

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02584 151226Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MMS-01 OIC-02 EB-07

STR-04 COME-00 OMB-01 NEA-09 SCA-01 VO-03 /103 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2074

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: HUMAN CONTACTS--INTRODUCTORY TEXT

REF: A. GENEVA 1976

B. GENEVA 1696

C. GENEVA 1539

D. STATE 51839

1. THIS CABLE REPORTS ON NEW SOVIET SUGGESTION RE HUMAN CONTACTS INTRODUCTORY TEXT AND REQUESTS GUIDANCE.

2. PREVIOUS DEPT GUIDANCE (REFTEL D) HAS AUTHORIZED US TO SUPPORT SWISS INITIATIVE (REFTELS B AND C) ON HUMAN CONTACTS INTRODUCTORY TEXT, UNDER WHICH FIRST FOUR PARAS WOULD READ:
BEGIN TEXT:

--CONSIDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS TO BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRUST AMONG PEOPLES,

--CONSCIOUS OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THESE PROBLEMS,

--DESIROUS OF STRIVING TO IMPROVE THEIR EXISTING PRACTICES
IN THIS SPIRIT,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 02584 151226Z

--GUIDED BY THE DESIRE TO APPLY THEIR EFFORTS, AS

DETENTE DEVELOPS, WITH THE AIM OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD, END TEXT.

3. SOVIETS HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THEY COULD ACCEPT THE SWISS IDEA, PROVIDED THE "HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS" CLAUSE APPEARED AS PARA 3 OR LATER (REFTELS A AND B). THEY HAVE NOW INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT "HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS" CLAUSE AS PARA 2, PROVIDED PARA 3 OF THE ABOVE TEXT WERE DELETED ENTIRELY. UNDER THIS SOVIET SUGGESTION, THE FIRST THREE PARAS WOULD READ BEGIN TEXT:
--CONSIDERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS TO BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE STRENGTHENING OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND TRUST AMONG PEOPLES,
--CONSCIOUS OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THESE PROBLEMS,
--GUIDED BY THE DESIRE TO APPLY THEIR EFFORTS, AS
DETENTE DEVELOPS, WITH THE AIM OF FURTHER PROGRESS IN THIS FIELD, END TEXT

4. WE BELIEVE THE SOVIET PROPOSAL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN IMPROVEMENT, SINCE IT WOULD MAINTAIN THE IMPLICATION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN "HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS" AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE (REFTEL B). ALTHOUGH THE DELETION OF PARA 3 OF THE TEXT FIRST QUOTED ABOVE WOULD RESOLVE THE DEBATE OVER "STRIVING TO PERFECT" AND "STRIVING TO IMPROVE," THIS DELETION WOULD FURTHER WEAKEN THE INTRODUCTORY TEXT AS A WHOLE. IN ADDITION, PARA 3 OF THE FIRST TEXT CITED ABOVE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE FRG BECAUSE BONN CONSIDERS SOME OF THE PROVISIONS IN ITS EASTERN TREATIES TO BE MORE FAVORABLE ON THIS SUBJECT THAN THOSE IN CSCE, AND THEREFORE WISHES LANGUAGE IN THE CSCE DOCUMENTS CALLING FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE EXISTING SITUATION TO PRECLUDE INTERPRETATION THAT LESS FAVORABLE CSCE TEXTS SUPPLANT EARLIER BILATERAL DOCUMENTS.

5. SOVIETS HAVE STRESSED THAT THEY CONSIDER THIS MATTER VERY SENSITIVE, AND IN THEIR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US THEY HAVE COMPARED IT WITH THE PROBLEM WHICH AROSE WHEN THE US-SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT WAS LINKED TO JEWISH EMIGRATION. AT THE SAME TIME, SOME ALLIED DELEGATIONS ARE ANXIOUS TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE OVER THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02584 151226Z

HUMAN CONTACTS INTRODUCTION. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THIS NEW SOVIET INITIATIVE HAS LITTLE TO RECOMMEND IT, AND TO SUPPORT IT AMONG THE ALLIES AT THIS STAGE WOULD RISK ALIENATING THE WEST GERMANS AND PROBABLY OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS. WE WOULD PREFER, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ORIGINAL SWISS APPROACH WHILE THE FRG SEEKS AN ALTERNATE FORMULATION TO RESOLVE THE "PERFECT/IMPROVE" PROBLEM. REQUEST

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